

THE MEDFORD DECLARATION TO END HUNGER IN THE U.S.

PRINCIPLES ON POVERTY AND ECONOMIC SECURITY

The following principles are suggested as guidelines for public policy and programs to address domestic hunger and poverty.

1. INDEPENDENCE, SELF-RELIANCE AND INCOME SECURITY

The best anti-poverty program is a working, self-reliant nation. The best way to promote self-reliance is through a market structure which rewards work adequately, and insures that full-time work raises families from poverty.

2. CONVERSION TO A PEACE-TIME ECONOMY

Economic policy for the 1990s should focus on conversion to an economy based on the new world order. The hallmark of this shift should be full-time, fair-wage jobs which allow independence and self-reliance for American families.

3. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The focus of public policy should be to provide Americans of all ages with knowledge and skills necessary to earn a decent living in the modern world economy.

4. SUPPORT FAMILIES AND VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLDS

Public policies should help undergird the strength of two-parent families, and assist single-parent households in nurturing children. Such policies must help those who are unable to work, and help to free from poverty those who can work, rather than maintaining them in poverty.

5. EARLY INTERVENTION AND ONE-STOP SHOPPING

Policies and programs must provide adequate resources early in the lives of vulnerable families, rather than waiting until problems get more complex and more costly. Social programs should be coordinated to eliminate barriers to critical services, and to minimize duplication and bureaucracy.

6. FEDERAL POVERTY STANDARD

The existing poverty standard is based on the economy of the 1950s, and must be revised to reflect the actual costs of necessities (food, housing, health care, energy), as well as contemporary social standards.

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